



AMAZING MUSICWOMEN

By

Dr. Joan Cartwright

With

Illustrations by Charles Mills

AMAZING MUSICWOMEN

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DEDICATION

To the women and men who brought jazz and blues to the forefront of American History, creating a universal language that will last until eternity.



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Women in Jazz Concert & Lecture

Joan Cartwright is a vocalist, composer and Jazz Historian. Her ensemble with Jus' Cynthia and Sandra Kaye traces the origins of Jazz from the West Coast of Africa to the clubs of Harlem. This presentation highlights the life, times and tunes of America's premiere Blues and Jazz Women from Ma Rainey, Alberta Hunter, Ethel Waters and Bessie Smith to Betty Carter and beyond. Selections include compositions of Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Billie Holiday, Cole Porter, Norman Mapp and Joan Cartwright. (1-2 hours)

INTRODUCTION

For the first African singers, vocals were the essence of music. The voice was the first instrument and it inspired drummers and other percussionists. A dialogue was created between the instrumentalists and the vocalists, and vocalese was an expression of the inner voice of the people singing. There was an individual sound from each person. Instrumentalists imitated the voice's cries, growls, moans, slurs, whispers, shouts and wails.

The blues singers were the element of the subculture created from Africans who, while enslaved, sang European music. Classical listeners considered them crude and loud. However, jazz liberated singers from the precise pitch and calculated rhythms of European music. The melody was more natural and the rhythm was more like that of speech.

The first black women singers came out of the spiritual and blues styles and, later, developed the jazz style.

Gertrude "Ma" Rainey was born in Columbus, Georgia (September 1882 - December 22, 1939). Known as "The Mother of the Blues", she was the composer who popularized the blues. She was a spokesperson for black people and a hero to them. Her style of moaning captured the audience. She recorded hundreds of songs on Paramount and put that recording company on the map. She recorded with Louis Armstrong and Fletcher Henderson. She could grab a crowd and make them love her. The most popular blues singers had this quality. They could establish a rapport and rhetoric with the crowd.

"Ma" Rainey took Bessie Smith under her wing. This was how the blues tradition developed. One followed another or they were contemporaries of each other.

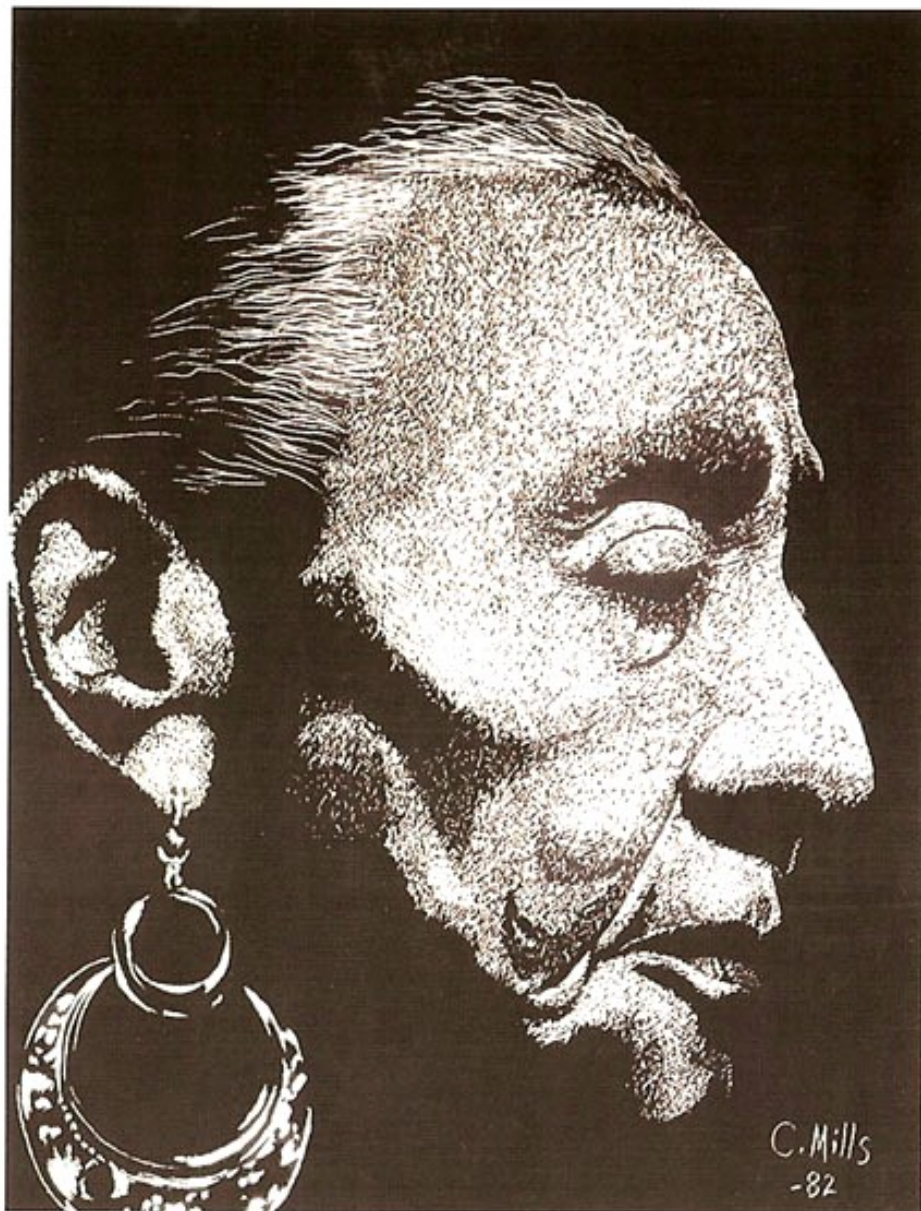


(Top) Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday
(Bottom) Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Alberta Hunter and Dinah Washington

Amazing Musicwomen
Scratchboard by Charles Mills
Collection of Joan Cartwright

1. GERTRUDE "MA" RAINEY 1882 -1939 Columbus, GA

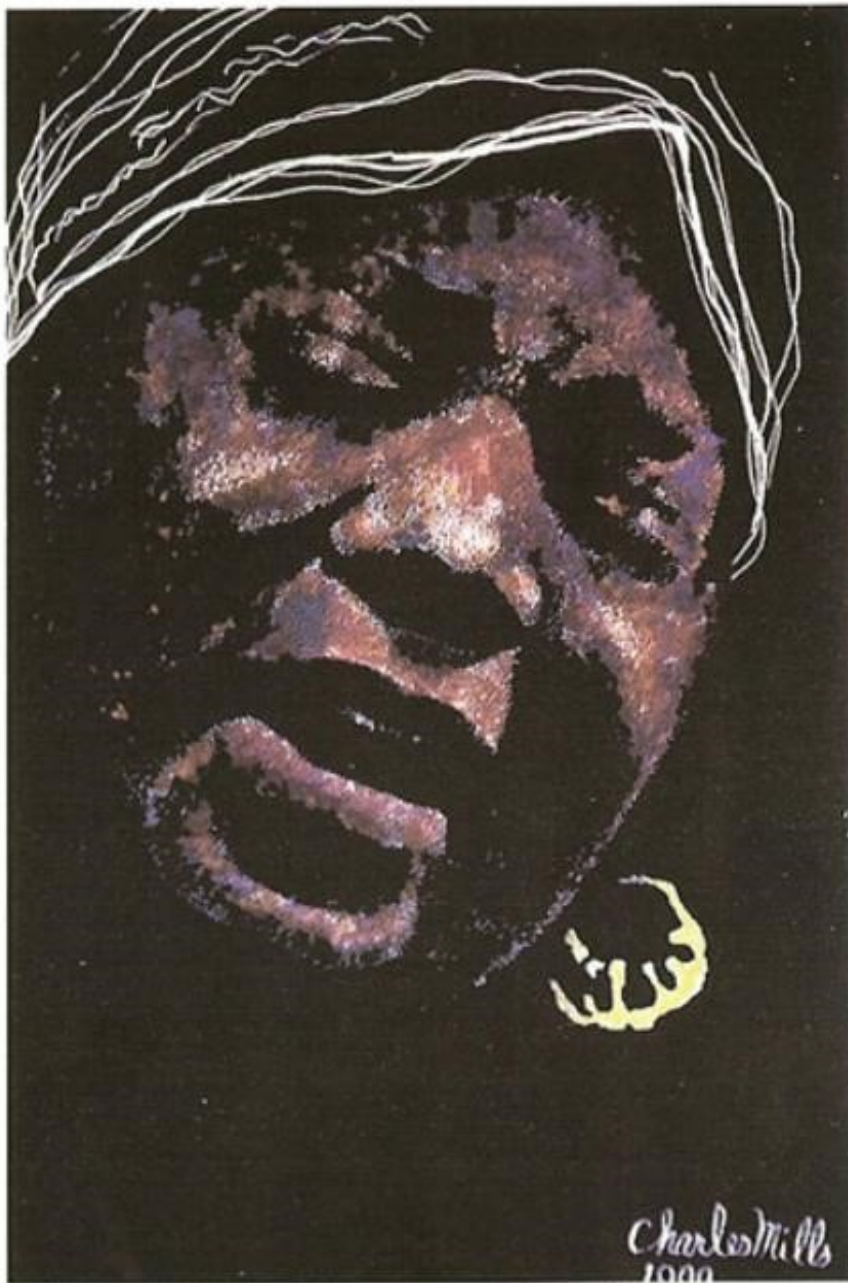
- "The Mother of the Blues" and composer who popularized the blues
- Born into a showbiz family that performed in minstrel shows and first appeared, in 1900, singing and dancing in minstrel and vaudeville stage revues.
- In 1902, married William "Pa" Rainey, formed a song and dance act with Blues and popular songs. Toured the country, primarily the South, a popular attraction with Tolliver's Circus, The Musical Extravaganza and The Rabbit Foot Minstrels, where Rainey befriended a young Bessie Smith.
- In the 1920s, was a solo star of the T.O.B.A. vaudeville circuit.
- In 1923, signed contract with Paramount, recording 100 songs by 1928, including *Big Boy Blues*, *Blues*, *Oh Blues*, *Bo-Weevil Blues*, *Broken Hearted Blues*, *Countin' The Blues*, *Gone Daddy Blues*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *See See Rider Blues*
- Accompanied by Louis Armstrong, Tommy Ladnier, Fletcher Henderson and Coleman Hawkins.
- In 1935, retired to Columbus, Georgia, built and operated two theaters



Alberta Hunter
Black & White Scratchboard, 11" x 14"
Collection of the Alberta Hunter Estate

2. **ALBERTA HUNTER 1885 -1984 Memphis, TN**

- "The Grand Ole Lady of the Blues"
- Began singing with Lil Harden in Chicago; and recorded with Fats Waller
- Replaced Bessie Smith on Broadway in "Home Coming" and "Showboat" in London with Paul Robeson and Ethel Waters
- USO tours in Asia, the South Pacific Islands and Europe, during WWII
- Stopped singing in 1954, to be a nurse and care for her mother
- Returned to stage, in 1977, at 82, at the Cookery, in New York, until 1984
- Wrote *Down-Hearted Blues*, *A Good Man is Hard To Find*, *Handy Man* and *Rough and Ready Man*



Bessie Smith
Colored Scratchboard, 12" x 16"
Collection of Dr. Monifa Asante

3. BESSIE SMITH 1894 - 1937 Chattanooga, TN

- "The Empress of the Blues"
- Used rhythm and minimal melody to express deep feelings.
- Worked with Fletcher Henderson, Louis Armstrong, and Buck and His Band
- In 1923 she made her recording debut on Columbia Records, accompanied by pianist Clarence Williams. They recorded *Gulf Coast Blues* and Alberta Hunter's *Down Hearted Blues* that sold a million copies
- In 1933, recorded the last time directed by John Hammond for Okeh Records
- She recorded 180 other recordings with Armstrong and Henderson
- Songs by Smith - *Baby Doll*, *Backwater Blues*, *Dixie Flyer Blues*, *Hard Time Blues*, *Hot Spring Blues* and *It Makes My Love Come Down*
- Bessie started to style herself as a Swing musician and was on the verge of a comeback, when her life was cut short by an automobile accident, in 1937.
- She was loved by Mahalia Jackson who would never sing the Blues but said she really loved them.



ETHEL WATERS



4. **ETHEL WATERS** **1900 -1977** **Chester, PA**

- Vaudeville - "Ms. Stringbean" (His Eye Is On The Sparrow)
- Recording debut, 1921, on Cardinal Records with "*The New York Glide*" and "*At the New Jump Steady Ball*", but switched over to African-American owned Black Swan label, and recorded "*Down Home Blues*" and "*Oh Daddy*"
- Sang with Fletcher Henderson
- Singer and actress in Broadway musicals "*Africana*" 1927
- Appeared in "*Blackbirds*" 1930
- "*Check and Double Check*" with Amos 'n' Andy and Duke Ellington
- Appeared in the musical "*As Thousands Cheer*" 1933
- Nominated for an Oscar for best supporting actress "*Pinky*"
- "*Member of the Wedding*"
- Won 1950 *New York Drama Critics' Circle Award*
- Hit songs "*Stormy Weather*" and "*Dinah*"



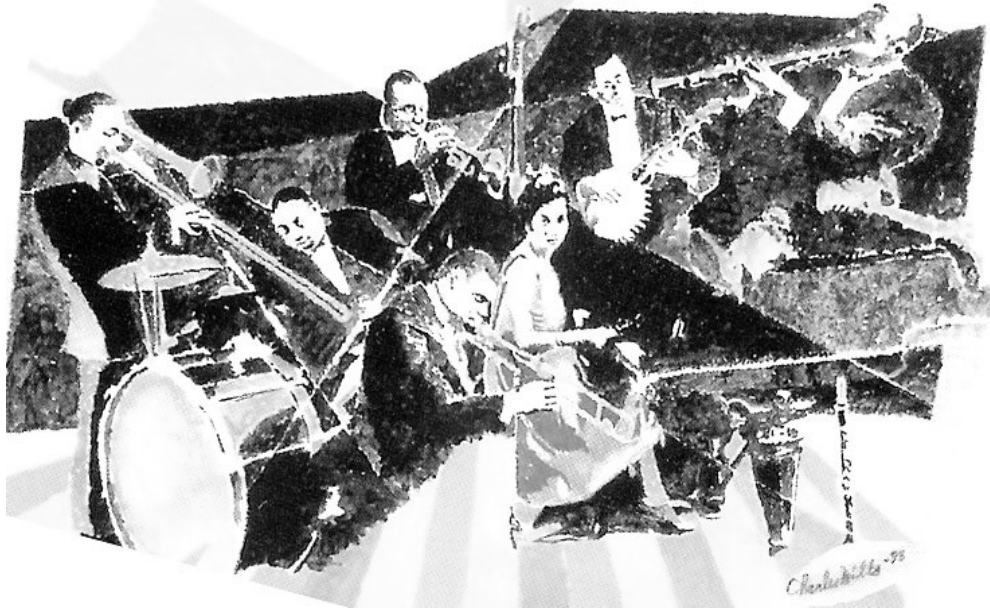
5. MABLE MERCER 1900 -1984 Staffordshire, England

- Left Manchester convent school at 14, joined her aunt in a vaudeville and music hall tour of Britain and the Continent.
- By the 1930s, she was the toast of Paris, introducing her inimitable style of singing to adoring audiences including Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Cole Porter, and the Prince of Wales.
- At the outbreak of World War II, she moved to New York, where she performed at the finest supper clubs and hotels, including Le Ruban Bleu, Tony's, RSVP, Byline Club (her own room), The Carlyle and St. Regis Hotels
- On July 4. 1977, first performance in England in 41 years, the BBC filmed three evenings of performances and broadcast a week-long late-night television program, a BBC first for an entertainer.

- In 1978, her 1956 album on Atlantic, *Midnight at Mabel Mercer's* was praised as "one of the best recordings of the past twenty years" by Stereo Review. That same year, she played at Club Mocambo, in San Francisco, to sold-out audiences, in celebration of her 78th birthday.
- In January 1981, honored by the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York with *An American Cabaret*, the only musical event in the museum's history. Mercer was the first guest on Eileen Farrell's program featuring great popular singers, on National Public Radio.
- In 1983, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian medal. When President Ronald Reagan presented it to her in a ceremony at the White House, he called her "a singer's singer" and "a living testament to the artfulness of the American song".
- Received two honorary Doctor of Music degrees from Boston's Berklee College of Music and the New England Conservatory of Music.



"Pops" Louis Armstrong
Pen & Ink Watercolor, 18" x 24"



Lil's Hotshots

Acrylic on Canvas by Charles Mills

6. LIL HARDEN ARMSTRONG

1902 - 1971

Memphis, TN

- Began performing at the very young age of three.
- First popular female piano player
- Composed over 150 tunes
- Played with King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band
- Made 37 recordings
- In 1924, married Louis Armstrong who left King Creole to work with *Lil's Hotshots*
- In 1936, she had a 16-piece band with trombonist Jonah Jones. recorded on Decca Records
- Worked as a soloist in 1940
- She and Louie broke up because they were on the road so much and they lost touch, but she had a heart attack while playing the piano, only seven weeks after Louie's death.



7. JOSEPHINE BAKER 1906 -1975 East St. Louis, IL

- "Bronze Venus", "Black Pearl", "Créole Goddess" in anglophone nations. In France, known in the theatrical tradition as "La Baker"
- Born in a poor, Black slum to 21-year-old Carrie MacDonald of African American and Native American descent
- Dropped out of school at 12; started her career as a dancer by 13
- Joined Vaudeville's St. Louis Chorus at 15.
- Headed to New York, during the Harlem Renaissance, performing at the Plantation Club and in the chorus of Broadway revues *Shuffle Along* (1921) and *The Chocolate Dandies* (1924).
- Performed as the last dancer in a chorus line, traditionally performed in a comic manner, as if they were unable to remember the dance, until the encore, when they performed correctly, but with additional complexity.
- Billed "the highest-paid chorus girl in vaudeville."

- October 2, 1925, opened in Paris at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and became an instant success for her erotic dancing, appearing practically nude on stage.
- Starred at the *Folies Bergères*, performing *Danse sauvage*, wearing a costume consisting of a skirt made of a string of artificial bananas.
- In 1925, success coincided with the *Exposition des Arts Décoratifs* that gave us the term *Art Deco*, renewing interest in ethnic forms of art, including African.
- Ernest Hemingway called her "... the most sensational woman anyone ever saw."
- Starred in three films successful in Europe: the silent film *Siren of the Tropics* (1927), *Zouzou* (1934) and *Princesse Tam Tam* (1935)
- In Paris, accompanied onstage by her pet cheetah, Chiquita, adorned with a diamond collar. The cheetah frequently escaped into the orchestra pit, where it terrorized the musicians, adding another element of excitement to the show.
- Parisian dancer and singer and most famous American expatriate in France
- In 1931, hit song, *J'ai deux amours*
- In 1934, had the lead in Jacques Offenbach's 1875 opera *La créole* at the Théâtre Marigny in Paris
- Participated in the Underground, smuggling intelligence to the resistance in Portugal coded within her sheet music. After the war, awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Légion d'Honneur by General Charles de Gaulle, and also the Rosette of the Résistance
- In 1937, married Frenchman Jean Lion and became a French citizen. They protested racism by adopting 12 multi-ethnic orphans, called the *Rainbow Tribe*.

- In 1951, made charges of racism against Sherman Billingsley's Stork Club in New York, where she had been refused service. Actress Grace Kelly, took her by the arm and stormed out with her entire party, vowing to never return and never did. Their friendship was made evident, when Baker was near bankruptcy and Kelly, royal consort of Rainier III of Monaco, offered Baker a villa and financial assistance.
- In 1963, she spoke at the March on Washington at Martin Luther King, Jr.'s side. Coretta Scott King asked Baker to replace King as leader of the Civil Rights Movement, but Baker decided her children were more important.
- In 1973, opened at Carnegie Hall to a standing ovation.
- First female African American to star in a major motion picture, to integrate an American concert hall, and to become a world famous entertainer.
- Most noted for her contributions to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, and for being an inspiration to generations of African-American female entertainers

“Few know that Mary Lou Williams arranged for Duke Ellington and mentored Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk and Charlie Parker. She taught them how to use the flatted and altered 5th to produce Bebop.

She wrote *The Land of Ooh Blah Dee* and Monk’s composition *Rhythmning* was adapted from one of Mary Lou’s melodic riffs.” - Dr. Nelson Harrison



The Duke
Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 30"
Collection of Dr. Venessa G. Niles



Marylou Williams by Charles Mills

8. MARYLOU WILLIAMS 1910 -1981 Atlanta, GA

- "The Lady Who Swings The Band" (Andy Kirk)
- "The Mother of Bebop" mentored Dizzy Gillespie, Charles "Bird" Parker, Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell and Tad Dameron, giving them the secrets of the flatted 5th and started the bebop revolution. Monk used a riff from one of her arrangements for Andy Kirk to compose *Rhythmning* without changing it at all.
- Known to musicians as one of the greatest arrangers ever
- Played with Andy Kirk's Twelve Clouds of Joy for 12 years
- Colleague and arranger for Duke Ellington, Fats Waller and Jelly Roll Morton
- Recorded on *Decca* and wrote "*What's Your Story Morning Glory*" later recorded as "Black Coffee" by Sarah Vaughn, but her name was not printed on the label so she received no credit
- Worked at the Cafe Society in New York

- Recorded on *RCA Victor* and *Continental Records*
- Broke the ban in Europe that black musicians could stay for only two weeks. She went for six weeks and stayed for two years
- She took a long break from jazz and wrote religious music, including a Mass for a black saint of Peru who was canonized
- Friends encouraged her to get back into jazz. She got less money than she was used to making, but she played a lot of jazz before her death in 1981
- Received Trinity Award from Duke University

Many singers team up with
horn players:

- Billie Holiday and Lester Young
- Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong
- Etta Jones and Houston Person
- Sandra Kaye and Shelley Carrol
- Joan Cartwright and Pete Minger



Lester Young

Collage, 20" x 24"

Collection of the City of Hollywood, Florida



9. BILLIE HOLIDAY **1915 - 1959** **Baltimore, MD**

- Internationally known as "Lady Day"
- Performed with Lester "Prez" Young
- Recorded with Teddy Wilson from 1935 to 1939
- In 1937, she worked with Count Basie
- With Artie Shaw in 1938
- 40's and 50's she sang in theaters and clubs from Cafe Society to the Apollo
- First black woman to appear in Carnegie Hall.
- Battle with narcotic addiction led to her death at 44 in 1959
- Popularized "Strange Fruit" and "God Blessed The Child"
- All the great American jazz singers fashioned after Billie



10. LENA HORNE 1917 - New York, NY

- Singer and actress. Her mother was also an actress. Her grandmother was an activist who took Lena to the NAACP, the Urban League and the Ethical Culture Society.
- At 16, began working at Harlem's Cotton Club, first as a dancer, then in the chorus and later as a solo singer. She sang with orchestras, and was discovered, while singing with Charlie Barnet's orchestra. She sang in clubs in Greenwich Village and performed at Carnegie Hall.
- Since 1942, Horne has appeared in films, on Broadway and she made many recordings. She's been honored with many awards for her lifetime of success.
- Signature song, from a 1943 film of the same name, *Stormy Weather*.
- In 1950, published her memoirs, *In Person*
- Recorded and performed extensively, independently and with other jazz notables, including Artie Shaw, Teddy Wilson, Billy Strayhorn, Duke Ellington, Charlie Barnet, and Billy Eckstine.
- In 1965, performed one-woman Broadway show, *Lena*.



11. PEARLIE MAE BAILEY 1918 -1990 Newport News, VA

- Began by singing and dancing in Philadelphia's black nightclubs in the 1930s, and performed in other parts of the East Coast.
- In 1941, during World War II, toured the country with the USO, performing for American troops. Then, settled in New York.
- Her solo successes as a nightclub performer were followed by acts with such entertainers as Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington.
- In 1946, made Broadway debut in *St. Louis Woman*.
- Continued to tour and record albums in between her stage and screen performances.
- In 1954, she took the role of Frankie in the film version of *Carmen Jones*, and her rendition of *Beat Out That Rhythm on the Drum* is one of the highlights of the film.
- Starred in the Broadway musical *House of Flowers*.
- In 1959, she played the role of Maria in the film version of *Porgy and Bess*, with Sidney Poitier and Dorothy Dandridge. Also that year she played the role of Aunt Hagar in the movie *St. Louis Blues*, with Mahalia Jackson, Eartha Kitt, and Nat King Cole.

- In 1967, headlined with Cab Calloway in an all-black cast version of *Hello, Dolly!* The touring version was so successful, producer David Merrick took it to Broadway, where it played to sold out houses and revitalized the long running musical.
- She won a special Tony Award for her role and RCA made a second original cast album, the only recording of the score to have an overture written especially for that recording.
- In 1968, she sang the national anthem at Shea Stadium, prior to game 5 of the 1969 World Series.
- During the 1970s, she had her own television show, and provided voices for animations in *Tubby the Tuba* (1976) and Disney's *The Fox and the Hound* (1981).
- Appointed by President Richard Nixon as America's *Ambassador of Love*
- In 1975, returned to Broadway, in all-black production of *Hello, Dolly!*.
- In 1985, earned a B.A. in Theology from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.
- Later in her career, she was a spokesperson in Duncan Hines commercials.



12. **ELLA FITZGERALD** 1917 -1994 **Newport News, VA**

- "The Perfect Jazz Singer", "First Lady of Song"
- Moved to Yonkers, NY, with her mother and sister
- In 1934, auditioned at the Apollo as a dancer but won \$25, by singing *The Object of My Affection* by the Boswell Sisters
- In 1935, performed with Tiny Bradshaw at the Harlem Opera House, where she met drummer Chick Webb; joined his band at the Savoy Ballroom; and recorded *A-Tisket, A-Tasket* that she co-wrote
- After Webb's death, led the band of 16 to 21 men for 2 years
- In 1942, signed with Decca Records, and began working with producer and manager Norman Granz at Jazz at the Philharmonic
- In 1945, entered Bop Era with scat recording *Flying Home* described by *The New York Times* as "one of the most influential vocal jazz records of the decade"
- In December 1947, married to bassist Ray Brown; divorced in 1953
- In 1955, Granz built Verve Records around her and she sang the music of Cole Porter, Gershwin, Ellington and Jobim

- Played singer Maggie Jackson in Jack Webb's jazz film *Pete Kelly's Blues* that costarred Janet Leigh and singer Peggy Lee.
- From 1963 to 1972, recorded on Atlantic , Capitol and Reprise
- Appeared in films *St. Louis Blues* (1958), *Let No Man Write My Epitaph* (1960), and 1980s television drama *The White Shadow*
- Numerous guest appearances on television, *The Frank Sinatra Show*, alongside Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Mel Tormé and others.
- In 1963, *Three Little Maids* song from Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta *The Mikado*, alongside Joan Sutherland on Dinah Shore's weekly variety series.
- In 1971, commercials for *Memorex*, Kentucky Fried Chicken and American Express
- In 1972, Granz formed Pablo Records and made 20 albums with her
- In 1979, appeared with Sarah Vaughan and Pearl Bailey on television special honoring Bailey.
- Performed and recorded with the trumpeters Louis Armstrong, Roy Eldridge and Dizzy Gillespie; guitarists Joe Pass and Herb Ellis; bandleaders Count Basie and Duke Ellington; pianists Tommy Flanagan, Oscar Peterson, Lou Levy, Paul Smith, Jimmy Rowles and Ellis Larkins
- In June 1974, appeared with Frank Sinatra and Count Basie at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas and, in September, grossed \$1 million, in two weeks on Broadway, in with the Count Basie Orchestra.
- A statue of Fitzgerald is in Yonkers, where she grew up.
- In April 2007, the United States Postal Service honored her with 39 cent stamp as part of the Postal Service's Black Heritage series



13. CARMEN MCRAE 1920 -1994 New York, NY

- Studied piano as a child and as a teenager came to the attention of Teddy Wilson and his wife, composer Irene Kitchings Wilson. They influenced one of McRae's songs, *Dream of Life* being recorded by Wilson's collaborator Billie Holiday.
- By late 1940s, well known among the modern jazz musicians at Minton's Playhouse, Harlem's most famous jazz club, where she was the intermission pianist.
- While working in Brooklyn, came to the attention of Milt Gabler of Decca Records, where she recorded 12 albums in five years.
- In 1987, recorded duets with Betty Carter.
- Sang with Benny Carter, Mercer Ellington, Count Basie, Sammy Davis Jr., Dave Brubeck, and Louis Armstrong.
- Friendship with Billie Holiday
- Married to drummer Kenny Clarke and bassist Ike Isaacs.



14. PEGGY LEE 1920 - 2002 Jamestown, ND

- Famous singer-songwriter wrote with her husband, guitarist Dave Barbour.
- In 1946, first hits, *I Don't Know Enough About You* and *It's a Good Day*, the opening song in the Susan Hayward film, *With a Song in My Heart*, about the life of singer Jane Froman.
- *What More Can a Woman Do?* (1945), recorded by Sarah Vaughan with Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Also, the album title and hit R&B single for Big Maybelle.
- In 1948, *Mañana* topped the charts for 9 weeks; Capitol Records' biggest hit single by a singer-songwriter, until the Beatles -- four men!
- In 1952, wrote *How Strange*, for the movie *The Bullfighter and the Lady* with Robert Stack and Virginia Grey.
- In 1953, *This Is a Very Special Day* for the remake of the movie *The Jazz Singer*, she co-starred with Danny Thomas. That same year, she wrote a mood poem, *New York City Ghost*, performed at the Hollywood Bowl to orchestra music composed by her collaborator Victor Young, composer of *Around the World in 80 Days*.

- In 1954, wrote a song for the Tony Curtis movie *The Rawhide Years*; title song for the Joan Crawford movie *Johnny Guitar*, and *I Love You So* for the Shirley Booth movie *About Mrs. Leslie*.
- In 1955, *Lady and the Tramp* was her first complete score for a movie.
- In 1955, nominated for an Academy Award for her performance in *Pete Kelly's Blues*, and an Emmy for best female singer on television.
- In 1956, wrote the theme for the Ethel Barrymore and Carolyn Jones' movie *Johnny Trouble*, and four songs for the movie *Tom Thumb* (1958), including *Take a Little Time to Smile*.
- In 1958, the first year of the Grammy Awards, her hit *Fever*, for which she wrote new lyrics, was nominated for four Grammys, including Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Best Vocal.
- By 1969, she received 8 more vocal nominations, and *Is That All There Is?* by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller won.
- Duke Ellington and she wrote *I'm Gonna Go Fishin'* for *Anatomy of a Murder*.
- In 1961, Harold Arlen and she wrote *Happy With The Blues* for a television special on Arlen's music that became the title of Arlen's biography.
- In 1964, songs for the Jane Fonda movie *Joy House*; Carl Reiner movie *The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!* (1966); Cary Grant movie *Walk, Don't Run* (1966); Alan Arkin movie *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* (1968); Charles Bronson movie *Rider on the Rain* (1971) and *The Nickel Ride* (1974).
- In 1983, she appeared in a Broadway musical about her life, *Peg*, for which she wrote the score.

- Her dozens of albums always include originals and, in 1990, she released a CD, *There'll Be Another Spring: The Peggy Lee Songbook*, with songs she wholly or partly composed, including five new compositions.
- She wrote music for many compositions, but usually wrote lyrics, collaborating with composers Dave Barbour, Victor Young, Harold Arlen, Willard Robison, Duke Ellington, Quincy Jones, Cy Coleman, Johnny Mandel, Dave Grusin, Robert Farnon, Francis Lai, Sonny Burke, Paul Horne, Jack Marshall, Marion McPartland, Lalo Schiffrin, Michel Legrand, Dick Hazzard, Hubie Wheeler and Bob Schluger.
- Artists from R&B singer Big Maybelle to opera singer Julia Migenes recorded her songs, including Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, Nat "King" Cole, Mel Tormé, Tony Bennett, Sarah Vaughan, Bing Crosby, June Christy, Della Reese, Dionne Warwick, Jack Jones, Perry Como, Dean Martin, Cleo Laine, Nina Simone, Sammy Davis Jr., Annie Ross, Eileen Farrell, Jack Teagarden, Elvis Presley, Blossom Dearie, The Mills Brothers, Jonah Jones, Nellie Lutcher, Chris Connor, Mark Murphy, Mose Allison, Barbara Lea, Michael Feinstein, Holly Cole, k.d. lang and Madonna.
- Her 1948 recording of her composition *Don't Smoke in Bed* that she credited to Willard Robison to help his daughter financially, opened the Jack Nicholson movie *The Two Jakes*.
- A 1966 composition, *The Shining Sea*, was recorded by Eileen Farrell on her 1992 CD *It's Over*, and a 1983 composition, *Angels on Your Pillow*, from the Broadway musical *Peg*, was included on Michael Feinstein's CD, *Pure Imagination*, in 1992



Photo from www.npr.org

15. MARIAN McPARTLAND 1920 - Windsor, England

- Pianist and composer
- First job in New York on 52nd Street, in 1952
- Parents disapproved because she was involved in "the bad life".
- Two-weeks at the Hickory House lasted a year and all of the greats came to hear her, Benny Goodman and Dizzy Gillespie
- 1971, she formed her own record company, Halyceon Records
- Worked for an extensive time at Cafe Carlyle
- "Piano Jazz" radio show on National Public Radio, since 1970
- Public Broadcasting System 13-series Women in Jazz program.
- Guest of national symphonies

16. Dinah Washington

1924 - 1963

Tuscaloosa, AL

- “Queen of the Blues”
- Born RUTH JONES, moved to Chicago at age 4
- Mother played piano at St. Luke’s Baptist Church
- Played piano and directed church choir, in Chicago, and on the road with gospel pioneer Sallie Martin, in 1940
- Extraordinary recordings in jazz, blues, R&B and light pop
- First prize at a Regal Theater amateur contest.
- Cut first record for Mercury, January 1946, and a star by 1948
- Worked with Lionel Hampton 's band from 1943 to 1946
- Sang with Clifford Brown, Clark Terry, Maynard Ferguson, pianists Wynton Kelly, Joe Zawinul and Andrew Hill
- Duets with Brook Benton "Baby, You Got What It Takes" and "Rockin' Good Way"
- Recorded critic Leonard Feather compositions
- EmArcy and Mercury Records
- Dominated the R&B charts in the late '40s and '50s
- 1991 Inductee - Lifework Award for Performing Achievement
- Worked with drummer Max Roach and saxophonists Lockjaw Davis and Cannonball Adderley in the Fifties. Used arrangements by Quincy Jones’s and employed pianist Wynton Kelly, drummer Jimmy Cobb, and tenor sax Eddie Chamblee, one of her eight husbands, in her bands
- In 1959, made the leap to pop stardom with slow ballads *"What a Difference a Day Makes"*, *"Unforgettable"*, *"This Bitter Earth"*, *"September in the Rain"*, *"Where Are You"*
- Died of alcohol and pills at age 39.



DINAH

Pen & Ink by Charles Mills



17. SARAH VAUGHAN 1924 -1990 Newark, NJ

- "Sassy" and the "The Divine One"
- Jazz singer and pianist, with command of pitch and dynamics across three vocal octaves; style informed by harmony and improvisation of jazz horn sections.
- Both parents were musicians that cultivated and nurtured her interest in music. She began piano lessons at 7 and organ lessons at 8. By 12, played organ for Mount Zion Baptist Church and sang in choir. Attended Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey.
- In 1942, entered amateur night contest at the Apollo, sang *Body and Soul*. Won \$10 and a week of performances that led to being hired as a vocalist and second pianist in Earl "Fatha" Hines's Big Band.
- In 1944, joined singer Billy Eckstine's band as pianist.
- Recorded *Lover Man* in 1945, with Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, also members of Eckstine's ensemble
- In 1946, launched solo career at New York Cafe Society.
- In 1949, signed 5-year contract with Columbia Records.

- Sustained success as a singer through the 1980s; recorded on numerous labels; performed with a variety of jazz artists, and toured in several countries.
- Voted top female vocalist by *Down Beat* and *Metronome* jazz magazines between 1947 and 1952.
- In 1982, album *Gershwin Live!* won a Grammy
- In 1989, received Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame in 1990.



18. DOROTHY DONEGAN 1924 -1998 Chicago, IL

- Concert pianist
- Became professional at 10 years old, playing church organ
- At 14, she went to Club Hi Jinx where she auditioned and the audience said, "*Give her a job.*"
- She recorded solo, at 18
- At 21, she was in the movie "Sensation of '45", playing opposite another piano player. They put makeup on her to make her look dark like an Egyptian
- "The greatest jazz pianist, today," according to many critics, though underrated because she is a female
- Pianist Oscar Peterson said she could play him "*under the piano!*"
- She plays like a man. That's the biggest problem women musicians have. They are expected to play like men. Can they just play like they are?
- She said, "*A musician is an athlete. He or she must get rest and stay in shape.*"

- Performed on Broadway in "*Star Time*"
- Famous for hip-shaking
- The famous jazz pianist, Art Tatum, was her mentor
- In Chicago, on her birthday, it's *Dorothy Donegan Day*



19. BLANCHE CALLOWAY 1925 -1978 New York, NY

- Studied music at Morgan State College; dropped out to pursue show business.
- In 1923, offered a part in a musical touring company and became a spotlight entertainer, and worked in nightclubs across the country.
- In the 1920s, recorded for Okeh and Vocalion Records, including a session in 1925, with Louis Armstrong.
- Worked with her brother, bandleader Cab Calloway
- In 1931, at the Pearl Theatre, in Philadelphia, bandleader Andy Kirk hired her to sing with the Clouds of Joy and she became the featured attraction. Her attempt to steal leadership of the group from Kirk made him fire her.
- Kirk's band member, trumpeter Edgar "Puddin Head" Battle helped her form the group, Blanche Calloway and Her Joy Boys, with Ben Webster and Cozy Cole. Blanche Calloway and Her Orchestra was the first all-male orchestra fronted by a black woman. One of the best African-American outfits in the country,

the group toured and recorded for RCA Victor, disbanding in 1938, due to financial difficulties. She performed solo to shrinking audiences.

- In 1940, she formed an all-female orchestra that disbanded due to lack of bookings and, in 1944, she retired from show business.
- In 1950s, she managed a nightclub in Washington, DC, where she discovered R&B singer Ruth Brown.
- In the 1960s she worked as DJ in Miami and operated a mail-order hair care business.



20. CELIA CRUZ 1925 - 2007 Havana, Cuba

- “The Queen of Salsa”
- Second child of Catalina Alfonso and Simón Cruz, a stoker on the railroads
- As a teenager, her aunt took her to cabarets to sing, but father encouraged her to keep attending school, to be a Spanish teacher. A teacher told her that she could earn in one day as an entertainer what teachers earn in a month.
- Began in Havana's Radio Garcia-Serra's popular *Hora del Té* daily broadcast, singing the tango *Nostalgias*, and won a cake as first place.
- First recordings at radio station, then, in 1948, in Venezuela. Before that, Cruz had recorded for radio stations.
- In 1950, lead singer left renowned Cuban orchestra *Sonora Matancera* and Cruz was called. She wasn't accepted by the public because she was black, but the orchestra kept her and Cruz became famous throughout Cuba.

- When Fidel Castro assumed control of Cuba, in 1960, Cruz and husband Pedro Knight were in Mexico. They refused to return to their homeland, became expatriates and citizens of the United States.
- In 1966, worked with Tito Puente and recorded eight albums for Tico Records
- Joined the Vaya Records label, working with pianist Larry Harlow and headlined at Carnegie Hall
- Best known and most influential female figure in the history of Cuban music. “One of the world’s great singers.” -- *New York Times*



21. Melba Liston 1926 -1999 Kansas City, MO

- Moved to Los Angeles in 1937, played in high school band
- In 1942, began professional career as trombonist in pit band
- Joined Gerald Wilson's big band in 1943
- In 1947, recorded with schoolmate and major bebop saxophonist Dexter Gordon, who dedicated *Mischievous Lady* to her.
- Joined Dizzy Gillespie's big band in New York for a time, when Wilson disbanded his orchestra on the east coast after a tour.
- Toured with Billie Holiday in 1949, but decided that touring was not for her.
- Worked a clerical job for years, supplementing income as an extra in Hollywood, including appearances in *The Prodigal* and *The Ten Commandments*.
- Rejoined Gillespie's band for State Department tours in Europe, Middle East and Latin America in 1956 and 1957; her best recorded solo is on Gillespie's *Cool Breeze* on the album *Dizzy Gillespie at Newport*, recorded at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1957.
- Formed all-women quintet in 1958.
- Toured Europe with the theatre production *Free and Easy* in 1959
- Worked with the show's musical director, Quincy Jones and a variety of leaders in the 1960s, including vibraphonist Milt Jackson

and saxophonist Johnny Griffin, and began her long association with Weston.

- Arranged for pianist Randy Weston for four decades. He said she could “adapt to any situation, whether it’s a chorus, or strings, or horns, or Africa.” She added creative layers of harmonic color and texture to his albums *High Life*, *Uhuru Afrika*, *Earth Birth* and *Khepera*.
- In 1973, taught at Jamaica School of Music for 6 years, and formed band, *Melba Liston and Company*.
- In 1985, a stroke left her partially paralyzed, but she continued contributing her imaginative, strikingly dramatic arrangements to a succession of Weston’s albums in the 90s.



22. EARTHA KITT 1927 - 2008 Columbia, SC

- Her mother worked on a cotton plantation in South Carolina and was just 14 when she gave birth.
- Began her career as a member of the Katherine Dunham Company
- Made her film debut with them in *Casbah* in 1948
- Blacklisted in the US in the late 1960s, after speaking out against the Vietnam War at a White House function hosted by Ladybird Johnson
- Caused controversy, when she toured apartheid South Africa in 1974, arguing that she had helped wean the regime by raising awareness of racism.
- Returned to New York's Broadway in a 1978 production, *Timbuktu!*, and continued to perform regularly in theatre shows and concert halls.
- From the 1980s onwards she appeared in numerous films, and her 1984 hit *Where Is My Man* found her another generation of night club fans.
- Hit songs, *Just An Old Fashioned Girl*, *C'est Si Bon* and *Santa Baby*.

- Played Catwoman in the *Batman* television series in the 1960s
- Appeared in the movie *Boomerang* with Eddie Murphy in 1992
- Nominated in the Tony, Grammy and Emmy award categories and was a stalwart of the Manhattan cabaret scene.
- 2000 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for *The Wild Party*
- Known for her distinctive, feline drawl.



23. RUTH BROWN 1928 - 2006 Portsmouth, VA

- "The Girl With The Tear in her Voice", "The Original Queen of Rhythm & Blues", "Miss Rhythm & Blues" and "Miss Rhythm"
- Sang in the junior choir of the Emmanuel AME Church where she received vocal coaching from her father, the choir director.
- Developed an interest in popular music, working at the soda fountain at the USO club, after school and convinced the director to let her sing in the shows.
- Won talent contest at Apollo in Harlem.
- Local DJ in Washington, DC nightclub contacted top brass at Atlantic Records and signed her, giving the fledgling company its second hit *So Long*.
- First rhythm-and-blues singer. Her hits in the 1950s made Atlantic Records "the house that Ruth built."
- Second single, *Teardrops From My Eyes*, first #1 R&B hit.
- In the 1950's, dominated R&B charts with singles *5-10-15 Hours* and *Mama, He Treats Your Daughter Mean*. Two dozen hit records with Atlantic
- In 1961, went to another label with middling success

- In the turbulent 1960's, musical styles transitioned and she was a single mother of two boys, working as a maid, school bus driver and head start teacher, limiting her singing to weekends.
- Revived her career as the Tony Award-winning star of the musical revue *Black and Blue* with Linda Hopkins and Carrie Smith.



Photo from www.kendormusic.com

24. TOSHIKO AKIYOSHI 1929 - Darien, China

- Studied classical music as a youth
- Discovered jazz in a dance hall in Japan
- Taught herself improvisation by analyzing records
- Emigrated to US and studied at Berklee in 1956-59
- Performed with husband Charlie Mariano and Charles Mingus
- Moved to West Coast, married sax player Lew Tabackin and formed big band that toured, internationally, Japan and USA
- Defined the Jazz band as "a small group with a lot of colors"
- compositions written for individual sections, driving rhythms and Japanese melodies
- Albums, "Insights"
- 1985 moved to New York
- Documentary *Jazz Is My Native Language*



Women in Jazz South Florida, Inc. is a non-profit organization that promotes women musicians, globally, through contacts, books, articles, interviews, newsletters, events, courses, clinics, workshops, lectures, research, history, archives, websites, film, radio shows, audio and video recording, concerts, performances and recognition.

www.wijsf.com | www.wijsf.org

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Art Blakey
Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 30"
Collection of Joan Cartwright



Joe Lee Wilson

Brighton – Paris – New York

Joan Cartwright, Betty Carter and Joe Lee Wilson each recorded Norman Mapp's song *Jazz Ain't Nothin' But Soul*



BETTY CARTER

Watercolor by Charles Mills

Collection of Joan Cartwright

25. **BETTY CARTER** **1930 -1998** **Detroit, MI**

- Nicknamed "Bebop" because she was the most creative bebop singer and arranger
- Had a horn-like sound
- "I'm not supposed to have a hit record. It takes time to develop and record companies don't stand for that. I'm a jazz singer."
- Lionel Hampton fired her seven times for liking Dizzy's band better than his.
- Said "Scatting trains your ear to be in tune and hear different changes."
- Sang duets with Ray Charles for three years
- Influenced by Charlie Parker and Sonny Rollins and toured Japan with them, in 1963
- Said "I'm trying to do the independent thing and males are afraid of that."
- BetCar Productions is her record company
- Newport Jazz Festival in 1978 with Ella and Sarah
- On the New York scene with Art Blakey, Ron Carter, Joe Lee Wilson, Miles Davis and Freddie Hubbard
- Betty Carter, Joe Lee Wilson and Joan Cartwright each recorded Norman Mapp's *"Jazz Ain't Nothin' But Soul"*



Joan Cartwright and Betty Carter, IAJE, San Antonio, TX (1993)



Aminata Moseka Abbey Lincoln and Joan Cartwright
Montreux Jazz Festival (1992)

26. ABBEY LINCOLN 1930 - 2010 CHICAGO, IL

- Born Anna Marie Wooldridge but manager Bob Russell suggested she change her name to Abbey Lincoln
- Noted as a spiritual descendent of Billie Holiday
- Influenced by Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong
- Recorded for Liberty in 1955 (*Affair... A Story of a Girl in Love*) with Benny Carter
- Recorded for Riverside Records - *That's Him* (1957) with Roach, Rollins and Kenny Dorham
- Appeared in films *The Girl Can't Help It*. (1957), *Jamaica*, and *Nothing But a Man*
- Recorded on Riverside *It's Magic* (1958) and *Abbey's Blue* (1959) with Benny Golson, Art Farmer, Paul Chambers and Wynton Kelly
- Starred in film *For Love Of Ivy* with Sidney Poitier in 1968

- Married noted jazz drummer Max Roach (1962-70)
- Recorded *We Insist: Freedom Now Suite* with Roach
- Moved to Los Angeles and appeared in *Mission Impossible*
- Taught Drama at California State - Northridge Campus
- Inducted into Black Filmmaker's Hall of Fame
- Recorded two tribute albums to Billie Holiday
- Named "Aminata" the name of the Mother of the Christ child by Sekou Toure, President of the Republic of Guinea, in 1975
- Named "Moseka", meaning Goddess of Love, by Mr. Sacombi, Minister of Information, Republic of Zaire
- 1990s returned to NY to record on Verve
- Her compositions recorded with Bobby Hutcherson and J.J. Johnson
- Recorded duet album *When There Is Love* (1992) with Hank Jones
- Worked with Betty Carter
- Original composition *You Gotta Pay The Band*
- NEA American Jazz Master 2003



27. Dakota Staton 1931 - 2007 Pittsburgh, PA

- Started singing and dancing like Shirley Temple and developed her abilities at Filion School of Music, in Pittsburgh
- At sixteen, performed in the show *Fantastic Rhythm*
- Dinah Washington was her favorite and most important stylistic influence
- Sang for 2 years, with Joe Wespray Orchestra, the top band in the Pittsburgh
- Moved to Detroit and worked in show bars, including the Flame Show Bar.
- Followed the club circuit to Toronto and Montreal, Canada
- Worked in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Cleveland and St. Louis before going to New York
- Discovered by Capitol Records producer Dave Cavanaugh at the Harlem nightclub Baby Grand was and signed to the label
- In 1954, first 45 rpm on Capitol *What Do You Know About Love?* and *You're My Heart's Delight*
- Won *Down Beat* award for most promising new comer of 1955.
- Joined Big Joe Turner and Fats Domino, in DJ Alan Freed's first New York Rock 'n' Roll Party at the St. Nicholas Arena
- Rapidly evolved into a dynamic, jazz stylist with debut Capitol album, *The Late, Late Show* (1958) rose to #4 on the charts.

- In 1958, Capitol album *Dynamic!* reached #22 in the charts
- Cavanaugh turned the musical reins over to arranger and conductor Sid Feller, with whom Staton enjoyed a long and fruitful collaboration. Feller arranged for Jack Teagarden's big band and Ray Charles
- In March 1998, Staton was honored as the first living legend of *Gaiafest, A Celebration of Mother Earth with Women in Jazz*, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- Nominated for a 2005 *Grammy* for Best Jazz Vocalist



Gloria Lynne at *Jazz Under The Stars*, Atlanta 2005
Photo by Joan Cartwright

28. GLORIA LYNNE 1931 - 2013 New York, NY

- Grew up in Harlem and won first prize at the Apollo
- Recorded with The Enchanters and Dell-Tones in the 1950s
- Recorded as a soloist under her birth name, though most of her work was released under her stage name on Everest and Fontana labels
- In the 1960s, had several hits including June Night, Love I Found You," and I Wish You Love (1964), her signature song.
- Toured with Ray Charles, Billy Eckstine and Ella Fitzgerald
- Moved into jazz and performed with jazz greats, Quincy Jones, Bobby Timmons, Philly Joe Jones, and Harry "Sweets" Edison
- In 1960, album *I'm Glad There Is You* received a *Grammy* for Best Classical Crossover Album
- In 1997, Pioneer Award by the Rhythm and Blues Foundation
- In 2007, Congressman John Conyers Jr. proclaimed May 23, *Gloria Lynne Day*



29. Miriam Makeba 1932 - 2008 Johannesburg, South Africa

- Her mother was a Swazi sangoma and her father, who died when she was six, was a Xhosa.
- As a child, she sang at the Kilmerton Training Institute in Pretoria, for eight years.
- In the 1950s, sang with the Manhattan Brothers, then, formed her group, The Skylarks, singing a blend of jazz and traditional South African melodies.
- In 1959, performed in the musical *King Kong* with Hugh Masekela, her husband.
- A successful recording artist, but received few dollars for recording sessions and no royalties, so, she decided to move to the U.S.
- In 1959, starred in the anti-Apartheid documentary *Come Back, Africa*, and the Italian government invited her to the premier of the film at the Venice Film Festival.

- In London, met Harry Belafonte, who assisted her in gaining fame in the United States, releasing her hits, *Pata Pata*, *The Click Song* and *Malaika*.
- In 1963, after an impassioned testimony before the United Nations Committee Against Apartheid, Makeba's records were banned in South Africa and her South African citizenship and her right to return to the country were revoked.
- In 1966, won Grammy for Best Folk Recording together with Belafonte for *An Evening With Belafonte/Makeba*. The album dealt with the political plight of black South Africans under Apartheid.
- In 1968, marriage to Trinidadian civil rights activist and Black Panthers leader Stokely Carmichael caused controversy in the U. S. and her record deals and tours were cancelled. They moved to Guinea, where they became close with President Ahmed Sékou Touré and his wife.
- In 1973, separated from Carmichael and continued to perform in Africa, South America and Europe, and served as a Guinean delegate to the United Nations.
- In 1986, won the Dag Hammarskjöld Peace Prize
- In 1985, after the death of her daughter Bongi Makeba, moved to Brussels.
- In 1987, joined Paul Simon's *Graceland* tour and published her autobiography *Makeba: My Story*.
- In 1990, accepted Nelson Mandela's invitation to return to South Africa.
- In 1991, guest appearance on The Cosby Show, *Olivia Comes Out Of The Closet*.
- In 1992, starred in the film *Sarafin!*, scored by Hugh Masekela, about the 1976 Soweto youth uprisings, as the mother, Angelina.

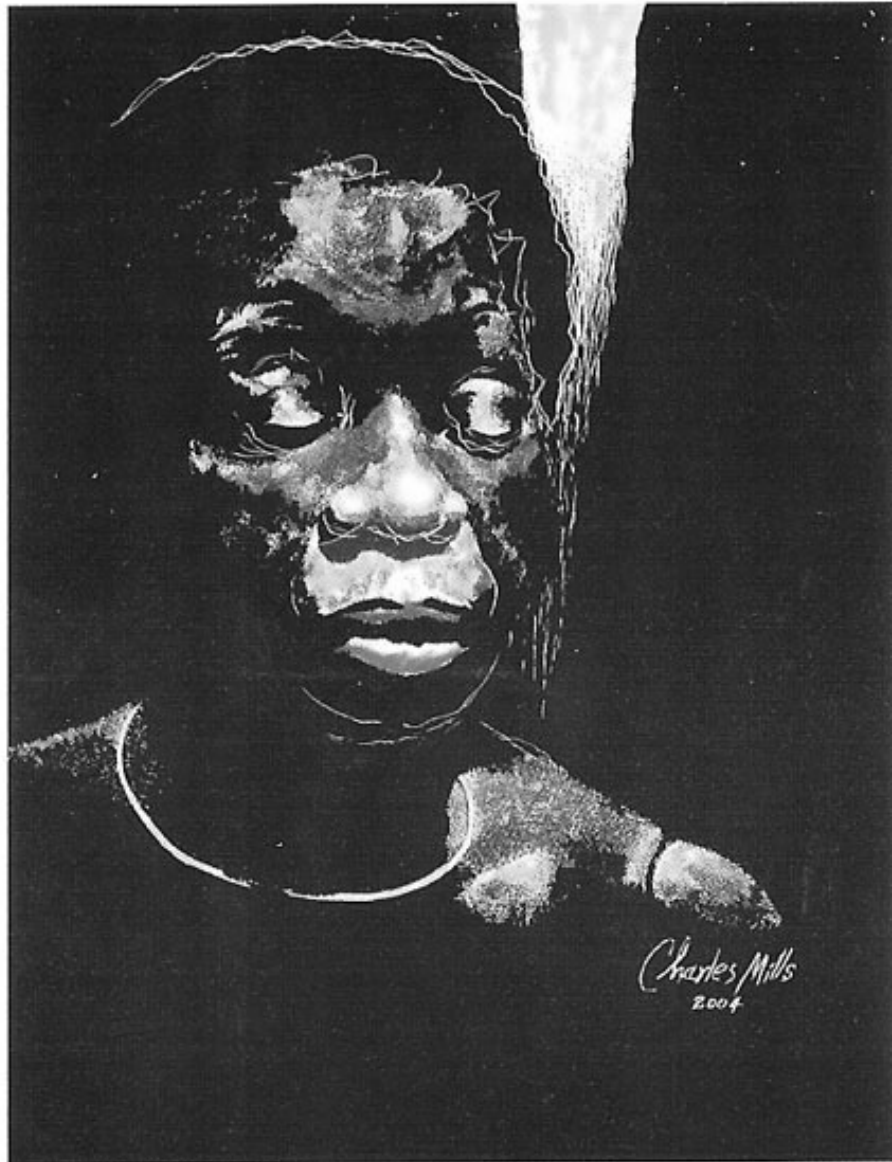
- In 2002, featured in the documentary *Amandla!: A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony*, where she and others recalled the days of Apartheid.
- In January 2000, her album, *Homeland* nominated for a Grammy in the "Best World Music" category.
- In 2001, won Gold Otto Hahn Peace Medal at the United Nations Association of Germany (DGVN) in Berlin, "for outstanding services to peace and international understanding".
- In 2002, shared the Polar Music Prize with Sofia Gubaidulina.
- In 2004, voted 38th in the Top 100 Great South Africans
- In 2005, started a worldwide farewell tour in countries she visited during her life. She was still touring as of May 2008, when she took ill and died in Italy.



30. DOROTHY ASHBY 1932 - 1986 Detroit, MI

- One of the first harpists to contribute to the classic hard bop and jazz-funk recordings; grew up in the Detroit scene, where her father, guitarist Wiley Thompson, rehearsed with jazz musicians at his home and Dorothy played the piano in the background.
- Played saxophone and bass in the Cass Technical High School Band, where jazz greats Donald Byrd, Gerald Wilson, and Kenny Burrell attended.
- Wanted her own harp because 14 students at school shared 5 harps. She said, *"This isn't just a novelty, though that is what you expect. The harp has a clean jazz voice with a resonance and syncopation that turn familiar jazz phrasing inside out."*
- Attended Wayne State University, for piano and music, graduated and worked in lively Detroit jazz scene as a pianist, but wanted to play harp more and, in 1952, bought her harp.
- To contest the resistance to the concept of the harp as a jazz instrument, she organized free shows and played for dancers with her trio with her husband John Ashby on drums.
- Toured and recorded on a number of jazz labels in the 1960s.
- In 1962, worked with Louis Armstrong, Woody Herman, and others

- Nominated in *Down Beats* annual poll of best jazz performers
- Worked with John Ashby, who founded the Ashby Players, a theater company in Detroit.
- In the late 1960s, tired of touring, they relocated to California, where Dorothy recorded in the closed studio system, recording with Dionne Warwick, Diana Ross, *Earth, Wind & Fire* and Barry Manilow. Bill Withers recommended her to Stevie Wonder.



Nina

Colored Scratchboard, 16" x 20"
Collection of Broward Community College

31. NINA SIMONE 1933 - 2003 Tryon, NC

- "High Priestess of Soul"
- Mother was a Methodist preacher
- Sang gospel since the age of 3
- Studied piano and organ, and graduated from Juilliard
- At 21, began professional career in Atlantic City
- At 26, recorded first hit *I Love You, Porgy* by George Gershwin
- After her appearance at the Playboy Jazz Festival in Los Angeles, she had numerous blues, gospel and pop hit records
- Spoke out against racism in her songs like *Mississippi, Goddamn*
- Appeared at the Newport Jazz Festival and European festivals, including Montreux
- From 1958 to 1974, recorded over 40 live and studio albums, with debut *Little Girl Blue*.
- In 1958, signed with Colpix Records that relinquished creative control to her in exchange for her signing with them. She performed pop music to make money to continue her classical music studies. Her demand for control over her music lasted for most of her career
- In 1964, she responded to racism in America documented by her friends Langston Hughes, James Baldwin and Lorraine Hansberry (*Raisin in the Sun*). She signed with Dutch Philips and openly addressed racial inequality in the U.S. with her song Mississippi Goddam, in response to Medgar Evers' murder and the bombing of a Birmingham church that killed four little, black girls. The record that included *Old Jim Crow* was boycotted in southern states.
- Performed and spoke at civil rights meetings from Selma to Montgomery marches. She covered Billie Holiday's *Strange Fruit* (*Pastel Blues* 1965) about the lynching of black men in the South, and sang the W. Cuney poem "Images" on *Let It All Out* (1966), about the absence of pride in the African-American woman. She

wrote *Four Women (Wild Is the Wind* 1966) about four stereotypes of African-American women.

- In 1967, moved from Philips Records to RCA Victor and recorded *Backlash Blues* by Langston Hughes and *Nina Simone Sings The Blues*. On *Silk & Soul*, she recorded *I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free* and *Turning Point* by pianist Billy Taylor.
- In 1968, the album *Nuff Said* had recordings from the Westbury Music Fair, on April 7, 1968, three days after the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is dedicated to him and she sang Why? (The King Of Love Is Dead), written by her bassist, upon hearing the news of King's death.
- In 1970, Simone and Weldon Irvine turned Lorraine Hansberry's play *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* into a civil rights song that she performed live on *Black Gold* that was the official "National Anthem of Black America" and has been covered by Aretha Franklin (*Young, Gifted and Black*) and Donny Hathaway.
- In 1972, moved to Barbados for many years; at the suggestion of Miriam Makeba, lived in Liberia; moved to Switzerland, then, The Netherlands, until moving to France in 1992.
- In 1974, recorded *It Is Finished* on RCA Records; and, in 1978, recorded *Baltimore* on CTI Records
- In the 1980s, performed at Ronnie Scott's jazz club in London, recording *Live at Ronnie Scott's*, in 1984.
- In 1992, published autobiography, *I Put a Spell on You*, and she recorded her last album, *A Single Woman* in 1993, then, settled near Aix-en-Provence in Southern France, where she died in her sleep, after being ill with breast cancer for several years.
- Her daughter, Lisa Celeste is an actress/singer that took on the stage name Simone and appeared on Broadway in *Aida*.



32. TRUDY PITTS 1933 - 2010 Philadelphia, PA

- Began playing piano at age six. Her mother was a musician and inspired this family tradition. Played piano for Sunday school at nine. Later, introduced to the church organ. Helped with the senior choir and went on to her own church choirs in various other settings.
- Earned degree in music education at Philadelphia's Musical Academy, Temple University, and Julliard, studying classics that built a base for future compositions and arrangements.
- Worked in the pit as an assistant to the pianist in the Tony Award-winning show *Raisin'*, in Philadelphia and joined the company for the rest of the tour
- Married drummer Bill Carney (Mr. C) who worked organists "Wild" Bill Davis and Jimmy Smith, and influenced her jazz performance on the Hammond organ
- The couple worked with Ben Webster, Gene Ammons, and Sonny Stitt
- She recorded four albums for Prestige, appearing with Willis Jackson, Pat Martino, and Rahsaan Roland Kirk.
- Associate Professor at University of the Arts Piano and Ensemble Department, in Philadelphia, PA



33. SHIRLEY SCOTT 1934 - 2002 Philadelphia, PA

- She studied piano and trumpet as a child. Switched to organ in the mid-50s.
- Worked in small groups with saxophone leaders, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Jimmy Forrest, Dexter Gordon and Stanley Turrentine, whom she was married.
- A gifted player with an eclectic style that encompassed the blues and bebop, Scott was one of only a handful of organists to satisfactorily fit a potentially unsuitable instrument into a jazz setting.
- In the 1980s, she taught jazz history at Cheney University, in Pennsylvania, and served as a church music director and jazz promoter.
- Her career received a boost in the 1990s, when the Hammond organ became fashionable, again.
- Her health was affected by her use of the diet drug combination Fen-Phen that was banned. Confined to bed in her later years, Scott died of heart failure in March 2002.



34. SHIRLEY HORN 1934 - 2005 Washington D.C.

- Played piano since age four.
- Studied classical piano at Howard University
- Formed first trio, in 1954, and achieved her first success in jazz, during the early sixties with the encouragement of Miles Davis and Quincy Jones.
- Recorded three albums from 1963-1965 for Mercury and ABC/Paramount, but decided to stay in Washington, D.C. to raise family
- In the 1980s, recorded a series of albums on Steeple Chase
- In 1986, recorded for Verve and released *Here's To Life* in 1992, and a tribute album to Davis, *I Remember Miles* that won a Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album, in 1998.
- Six of Horn's albums were nominated for Grammy's
- In 2004, The Kennedy Center honored Horn with a tribute
- Jazz Master Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts
- "I'm not a quitter, I'm a fighter," she told The Washington Post in late 2004
- Diabetes forced amputation of her right foot; passed on October 20, 2005.



Photo by Joan Cartwright

35. BERTHA HOPE 1936 - New York, NY

- Accomplished pianist, composer and arranger.
- Marriage to pianist/composer Elmo Hope resulted in recorded compositions and arrangements, performed by the Elmo Hope Project
- Leader of trio with Walter Booker and Jimmy Cobb, as well as being a member of the group *Jazzberry Jam!* with Carline Ray and Paula Hampton
- Transcribed Elmo Hope compositions to be performed, paying tribute to one of Be-Bop's underrated contributors
- Formed group *ELMOllennium*, featuring Walter Booker (bass), Leroy Williams (drums), Virgil Jones (trumpet), Charles Davis (tenor sax), Roni Ben-Hur (guitar), Amy London (vocalist)
- Performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Foster, Nat Adderley and Philly Joe Jones
- Artist-in-residence of New Jersey State Council on the Arts and performed in state-wide workshops.



36. Alice Coltrane

1937 - 2007

Detroit, MI

- In the 1960s, one of the most remarkable pianists and harpists of free-jazz movement. She also played organ and sang
- Studied music with pianist Bud Powell
- Jazz, blues, gospel and classical, trio, quartet, quintet
- Worked and recorded with John Coltrane Group, second wife of Coltrane
- Recorded with Kenny Burrell, Coltrane, "Live In Japan"
- 1968 formed groups with Joe Henderson, Pharaoh Sanders, Rashid Ali, Reggie Workman and Roy Haynes
- Journey to Sachidananda (Impulse) Ptah, The El Daoud
- Performed with Indian sitar player Ravi Shankar
- John and Alice's son is sax player Ravi Coltrane
- Founder of Transcendental Meditation Vedantic Center, California



Bluetrane

Oil on Canvas, 22" x 28"
Collection of Caleb Davis



37. Etta James 1938 - 2012 Los Angeles, CA

- Born Jamesetta Hawkins to an unmarried 14-year-old African-American mother, Dorothy Hawkins who said Etta's father was pool player Rudolph "Minnesota Fats" Wanderone, a Caucasian that supported them on the condition that they kept his paternity a secret. He was managed a pool hall in Washington, D.C.
- She received her first professional vocal training at five, from James Earle Hines, musical director of the Echoes of Eden choir at St. Paul Baptist Church in Los Angeles.
- Her family moved to San Francisco in 1950
- She teamed up with two girls to form a Doo-wop singing group. When the girls were fourteen, band leader Johnny Otis had them audition: they sang an answer to Hank Ballard's *Work With Me, Annie* called *Roll With Me Henry*. Otis recorded the trio in Los Angeles in 1954, Modern Records.

- The trio renamed the song *The Wallflower (Dance with Me, Henry)* released in 1955, and was a #1 hit, but was undercut in the wider market by a rushed-out cover version by Georgia Gibbs on Mercury Records.
- James named the group The Peaches, but left them to go solo.
- Toured with Johnny "Guitar" Watson and Otis Redding in the fifties and has cited Watson as the most significant influence on her style.
- In 1969 James married Artis Mills.
- Toured with Little Richard.
- In 1960, signed with the subsidiary labels of Chess Records, Argo Records and Cadet. She had major hits on duets with her husband, singer Harvey Fuqua - *If I Can't Have You* and *Spoonful*.
- First major solo hit with the R&B tune, *All I Could Do Was Cry* that peaked at #2, in 1960.
- Sang background on Chuck Berry's hit, *Back in the USA*
- Debut album on Chess, *At Last* featured all of James' hits between 1960 and 1961, and standards, such as Lena Horne's *Stormy Weather*, *I Just Want to Make Love to You* by Muddy Waters, and *A Sunday Kind of Love*.
- Chess producer, Leonard Chess thought she could cross over onto the Pop charts and backed her recording sessions with violins and other string instruments, which was first seen on her 1961 hit, *At Last*, #2 on the Billboard R&B chart, and #47 on the Billboard Pop Chart, becoming her signature song.
- In 1961, another hit *Trust in Me* featured string instruments. She released a second studio album, *The Second Time Around*, inspired by Soul music, and spawned a Top 15 hit, *The Fool That I Am* and a minor hit on the Pop chart, *Don't Cry Baby*.

- In 1962, she had three major hits, *Something's Got a Hold on Me*, #4 on the R&B chart, and it reached the Pop Top 40. *Stop the Wedding* reached #6.
- In 1963, her first live album, *Etta James Rocks the House*, was cut in Nashville, at the New Era Club. Another Top 10 R&B hit *Pushover*, made the Pop Top 25.
- In the mid-1960s, she battled with heroin addiction, until 1974, spending time in Tarzana Psychiatric Hospital.
- In 1967, recorded her hit, *Tell Mama* that reached Top 10.
- After Leonard Chess' died, James recorded with his label, until 1978, using more Rock songs in her albums.
- In 1978, released final two albums for Chess, *Etta Is Betta Than Evah* and *Deep in the Night*, opened for The Rolling Stones in the U.S.; played at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, in 1977, 1989, 1990 and 1993; and San Francisco festival for five years.
- In 1989, comeback album, *Seven Year Itch*, on Island Records, reuniting her with producer, Jerry Wexler
- In 1992, next album, *The Right Time* on Elektra Records
- In 1993, released *The Essential Etta James* with Joe Cocker's song *Leave Your Hat On*, and a tribute album *Mystery Lady: Songs of Billie Holiday*, first on Private Music label, first album in the Jazz genre
- In 1995, published autobiography, *Rage to Survive*
- In 2001, inducted into Blues Hall of Fame and Rockabilly Hall of Fame.
- In 2003, received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.
- In 2004, next album, *Blue Gardenia* in the Jazz style, and third live album, *Burnin' Down the House: Live at the House of Blues*, recorded at the House of Blues in West Hollywood, California;

and ranked #62 by *Rolling Stone Magazine* on 100 Greatest Artists of All Time

- In 2006, released final album for Private Music, *Let's Roll* that won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Blues Album
- In 2008, portrayed by R&B singer and actress, Beyoncé Knowles in the film, *Cadillac Records*, the story of producer Leonard Chess, who helped the career of James, Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, and Willie Dixon.
- Won four Grammys and 17 Blues Music Awards
- In 1999 and 2008, Grammy Hall of Fame



38. ASTRUD GILBERTO 1940 - Bahia, Brazil

- Born Astrud Weinert, to Brazilian mother and German father, raised in Rio.
- In 1959, married João Gilberto, and immigrated to the United States in 1963.
- Sang on *Getz/Gilberto*, featuring João Gilberto, Stan Getz, and Antonio Carlos Jobim. Never performed professionally, and sang at her husband's request.
- *The Girl from Ipanema* established her as a jazz and pop singer.
- In 1964, appeared in films *Get Yourself a College Girl* and *The Hanged Man*.
- First solo album, *The Astrud Gilberto Album*, in 1964.
- Began singing Bossa Nova and American jazz standards, but recorded her own compositions in the 1970s.

- Most noted songs, *The Shadow of Your Smile*, *It Might As Well Be Spring*, *Love Story*, *Fly Me To The Moon*, *Day By Day*, *Here's That Rainy Day*, *So Nice (Summer Samba)* and *Look To The Rainbow*.
- Recorded in Brazilian Portuguese, English, Spanish, Italian, French, German, and Japanese.
- In 1982, son, Marcelo toured with her for more than a decade as the bassist and co-produced albums *Live in New York* (1996) and *Temperance* (1997). Son Gregory Lasorsa played guitar on the *Temperance* album, on her song *Beautiful You*, featuring singer Michael Franks.
- In 1992, received the Latin Jazz USA Award for Lifetime Achievement, and was inducted to the International Latin Music Hall of Fame, in 2002.
- In 2002, she took "indefinite time off" from public performances. She is a fine artist and an ardent advocate of animal rights.



Photo from www.tania.maria.free.fr

39. TANIA MARIA 1948 - Sao Luis, Brazil

- "The Lady From Brazil" who said, when practicing law, "I was a woman in a macho culture. A woman is supposed to serve man, not do what he can do."
- Began studying piano at age 7
- At 13, won regional first prize leading a band started by her father
- First recording for Warner at age 20
- She left the study of law and began her musical career in 1970.
- 1974 she went to Paris
- 1981 she made her American debut
- In 36 years, she has made 25 recordings of her Bossa Nova style
- Played virtually every important jazz festival in the world and has appeared on countless television and radio programs



40. **JOAN CARTWRIGHT** 1947 - Queens, NY

- Began performing on stage at 4, with Bernice Johnson Dance Troupe, for four years, in Jamaica, NY
- Studied piano with Gerald Price and harp with Caliope Proios. Bachelor of Music and Communication
- Performed with Pete Minger, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Freddie Hubbard
- Performed in the U.S.A., Europe, Africa, Mexico, South America, China and Japan
- Her composition, *Sweet Return*, title of the Atlantic recording of Freddie Hubbard and the Kool Jazz All-Stars of 1983
- CD, *Feelin' Good*, recorded in Catania, Sicily, with Giovanni Mazzarino Quartet, in 1995, and featured on the album of Italian Balladeur, Gianni Basso, in 1996.
- Lectures include A History of Jazz and Blues, Women in Jazz, Jazzmen, The Cultural Politics of Commercial Jazz and So, You Want To Be A Singer?: The Business of Music
- Received grants to present her lecture/concert on *WOMEN IN JAZZ* and has presented to 7,000+ students in Florida, Georgia, Sicily, Switzerland, in Tianjin, China and Tokyo, Japan
- Founder of Women in Jazz South Florida, Inc. (2007)
- Lady Jazz Master (2014)
- Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Hero (2019)
- Publisher of *Musicwoman Magazine* (2019)



JOAN CARTWRIGHT
Acrylic by Charles Mills
Collection of Joan Cartwright

- Producer of *Gaiafest, Women in Jazz* in 1998
- CD *In Pursuit of a Melody* released in 2006
- *In Pursuit Of A Melody* published in 2006, with 40 original songs
- MUSICWOMAN LIVE! Online at blogtalkradio.com/musicwoman

LOVE TRANSLATION

Music is the mastery of mind
It keeps you in a place of being
For moments at a time

Get caught up in its labyrinth
Leading through a thousand doors
To one simple end

Love translated as
Life translated as
Love translated as a
Woman translated as a
Man translated as a
Child translated as a
Tribe translated as a
Nation translated as a
Country translated as a
Continent translated as a
World translated as a
Universe translated as
Love



WOMEN IN JAZZ WORKSHOP
Ben Collier and Joan Cartwright
Artists-in-Residence
Pan African Bookfest 2007
African American Research Library
and Cultural Center
Fort Lauderdale, FL

©1999 Joan Cartwright

ID	Birth	Death	First Name	Last Name	Nomendature	City of Birth	State	Profession1	Prof. 2	Prof. 3	Comments
1	1886	1939	Gertude "Ma"	Raney	Mother of the Blues	Columbus	GA	Singer	Composer		Paramount Records
2	1894	1937	Bessie	Smith	Empress of the Blues	Chattanooga	TN	Singer	Composer	Actress	1st Million-seller record
3	1895	1984	Alberta	Hunter	Grand Ole Lady of the Blues	Memphis	TN	Singer	Composer	Actress	Show Boat; USO
4	1900	1977	Ethel	Waters	Ms. Stringbean	Chester	PA	Vaudeville	Composer	Actress	Pinky; Member of the Wedding
5	1902	1971	Lil Hardin	Armstrong	Lil's Hot Shots	Memphis	TN	Pianist	Composer	Bandleader	Wife of Louis
6	1910	1981	Mary Lou	Williams	The Lady Who Swings The Band	Atlanta	GA	Pianist	Composer	Arranger	Duke Ellington's colleague
7	1913	1981	HeLEN	Humes		KY		Singer	Composer		Count Basie Orchestra
8	1915	1956	Billie	Holiday	Lady Day	Baltimore	MD	Singer	Composer		1st Black Woman at Carnegie Hall
9	1917		Lena	Horne		Brooklyn	NY	Singer	Actress		Cabin In The Sky; Stormy Weather
10	1918	1984	Ella	Fitzgerald	First Lady of Song	Newport	VA	Singer	Bandleader		Chick Webb Big Band
11	1920		Marian	McPartland	Piano Jazz	Windsor	UK	Pianist	Composer	Arranger	Halcyon Records; NPR
12	1922	1995	Carmen	McRae	Monk Tribute	Brooklyn	NY	Singer	Pianist		Ellington & Basie Bands
13	1922		Peggy	Lee			ND	Singer	Composer	Painter	Goodman Band; Fever
14			Linda	Hopkins				Singer	Composer	Actress	Black and Blue
15	1924	1983	Dinah	Washington	Queen of the Blues	Tuscaloosa	AL	Singer	Composer		Hampton Band
16	1924	1998	Dorothy	Donagan	First Galafest Honoree	Chicago	IL	Pianist	Composer	Bandleader	Classical to Jazz
17			Dakota	Staton	First Galafest Honoree	Pittsburgh	PA	Singer	Interior Design		Downbeat Poll 1956
18	1924	1990	Sarah	Vaughn	Sassy; The Divine One	Newark	NJ	Singer	Pianist		Eckstein Band
19	1926		Melba	Liston		Kansas City	MO	Trombone	Composer	Arranger	Gerald Wilson Big Band
20	1928	2006	Ruth	Brown	1 st on Atlantic Records	VA		Singer	Actress		Black and Blue
21			Dorothy	Ashby		VA		Harpist	Pianist		Wiley Thompson; John Ashby
22	1930		Abbey	Lincoln	Aminata Moseka	Chicago	IL	Singer	Composer	Actress	For Love Of Ivy
23	1930	1988	Betty	Carter	Betty Be Bop	Detroit	MI	Singer	Composer	Bandleader	Vocal Workshops
24	1930		Annie	Ross			UK	Singer			Lambert, Hendricks & Ross
25			Shirley	Horn				Pianist	Singer	Composer	Here's To Life
26	1934		Shirley	Scott		Philadelphia	PA	Organist	Composer		Turrentine's wife
27			Ruth	Waters	Silky	Galveston	TX	Singer	Composer	Actress	Let's Get Serious; Talk Show
28	1947		Joan	Cartwright	<i>Galafest</i> Producer	Queens	NY	Singer	Composer	Writer	TV and Film Producer
29	1948		Sandy	Patton		Detroit	MI	Singer	Vocal Coach		Swiss Jazz School
30	1948		Tania	Maria	Lady From Brazil	Rio	Brazil	Pianist	Vocalist	Attorney	
31	1950		Dee Dee	Bridgewater			NY	Singer	Composer	TV Personality	Talk Show Host - Paris
32			Bernita	Bush		Cincinnati	OH	Singer		Lecturer	Gospel in Switzerland
33			Rachelle	Farrell		Philadelphia	PA	Singer	Dental Tech		Produced by George Duke
34			Kim	Clarke		Jamaica	NY	Bassist	Composer		Kit McClure Big Band
35			Bertha	Hope			NY	Pianist	Composer	Arranger	Jazzberry Jam!
36			Bernice	Brooks	Boom Boom	Chicago	IL	Drummer	TV Personality		Letterman Late Show
37			Vanessa	Rubin		Cleveland	OH	Singer	Teacher		
38			Pamela	Williams	Saxtress	Philadelphia	PA	Sax	Composer	1986 Top New Female Contemporary Jazz Artist	Jay Leno Show

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QUIZZES

WOMEN IN JAZZ QUIZ

1. Check 5 African American Female Blues and/or Jazz Singers:

_____ Maxine Roach	_____ Joanne Brackeen	_____ Carmen McRae
_____ Ella Fitzgerald	_____ Aminata Moseka Abbey Lincoln	_____ Dorothy Donegan
_____ Alberta Hunter	_____ Bessie Smith	_____ Ethel Waters

2. Match the performer with the Title:

a. "Lady Day"	_____ Sarah Vaughn
b. "Empress of the Blues"	_____ Ella Fitzgerald
c. "Mother of the Blues"	_____ Billie Holiday
d. "Sassy, The Divine One"	_____ Bessie Smith
e. "First Lady of Song"	_____ Gertrude "Ma" Rainey

3. "The Lady Who Swings The Band" is:

_____ Betty Carter	_____ Mary Lou Williams
_____ Astrud Gilberto	_____ Ella Fitzgerald

4. Check 4 female horn players:

_____ Dakota Staton	_____ Bobbi Humphrey
_____ Pamela Williams	_____ Melba Liston
_____ Diane Lyle-Smith	_____ Alberta Hunter

5. Match the Musician with the Instrument:

a. Shirley Scott	_____ Harp
b. Kim Clarke	_____ Organ
c. Lil Harden Armstrong	_____ Bass
d. Bobbi Humphrey	_____ Piano
e. Alice Coltrane	_____ Flute

6. Who composed the lyrics to the song "*God Blessed The Child*"?

_____ Billie Holiday	_____ Linda Hopkins	_____ Ruth Waters
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7. Dorothy Donegan, Marian McPartland and Toshiko Akiyoshi play:

_____ Drums	_____ Tenor Saxophone	_____ Piano
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8. Cindy Blackman and Teri Lynn Carrington play _____.

9. What famous singer sang with Saxophonist Lester "Prez" Young?

_____ Peggy Lee	_____ Melba Liston	_____ Billie Holiday
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10. The singers who are alive today are:

_____ Carmen McRae	_____ Lena Horne	_____ Betty Carter
_____ Aminata Moseka	_____ Sarah Vaughn	_____ Shirley Horn

1. Check 3 African American Female Blues and/or Jazz Singers:

___ Maxine Roach

___ Patrice Rushen

___ Natalie Cole

___ Dorothy Ashby

___ Ella Fitzgerald

___ Bessie Smith

2. Match the performer with the Title:

a. "Lady Day"

___ Louis Armstrong

b. "Empress of the Blues"

___ Ella Fitzgerald

c. "Mother of the Blues"

___ Billie Holiday

d. "Satchmo"

___ Bessie Smith

e. "First Lady of Song"

___ Gertrude "Ma" Rainey

3. "The Lady Who Swings The Band" is:

___ Betty Carter

___ Mary Lou Williams

___ Cicely Tyson

4. Check 3 Great African American Trumpeters who played Jazz and Blues:

___ Duke Ellington

___ Charles Mingus

___ Dizzy Gillespie

___ Miles Davis

___ Louis Armstrong

___ Eubie Blake

5. Match the Musician with the Instrument:

a. Shirley Scott

1. Harp

b. Charlie "Bird" Parker

2. Organ

c. Lil Harden Armstrong

3. Saxophone

d. Melba Liston

4. Piano

e. Alice Coltrane

5. Trombone

6. Who composed the lyrics to the song "God Blessed The Child"?

___ Billie Holiday

___ George Gershwin

7. Dexter Gordon and Sonny Stitt both played what instrument?

___ Bass Clarinet

___ Tenor Saxophone

8. Charles Mingus and Ron Carter play _____.

9. What singer sang with Saxophonist Lester "Prez" Young?

10. Tony Williams, Art Blakey and Lenny White all play _____

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Patti Austin - Live At The Bottom Line

Peggy Lee - Basin Street East

Peggy Lee - Mink Jazz

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Women in Music

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

CHARLES MILLS studied art at The Art Career School of Commercial Illustration in New York and at the Brooklyn Museum of Fine Art. He worked in the field of Medical Illustration and has designed and illustrated medical books and texts. His works have been exhibited at various galleries throughout the New York area. In 1969, he won an "Honorable Mention" at the Atlanta University Exhibit of Black Artists. His works have been exhibited at Croton Council on the Arts in New York. He had a one-man show at Brooklyn College.

Mills taught Pen & Ink Techniques and Pastel Painting at Brooklyn College Institute of Retired Professionals and Executives from 1982 to 1985. He held the office of President of the Artists League of Brooklyn for one year. He completed an 8'x9' mural for the David Chavis Senior Citizens Houses in 1984. This mural depicts great Black Americans who have contributed to their race and country.

In South Florida, where Mills has resided since 1985, he was an adjunct professor at the New World School of Arts in Miami. He taught at the Broward Art Guild and the Coral Springs Museum of Art. He was exhibited at Gallery Antigua, from 1986, until it's closing in 2003. In 1991, Mills fulfilled a commission for the City of Fort Lauderdale to create a mural depicting the history of African Americans from the time of slavery to the present, on Sistrunk Boulevard.

Mills completed a Fellowship study at the Brandywine Print Workshop in Philadelphia in 2001. He created a limited edition print "Melon Slices". He continues to work and teach, prolifically, into his eighties.



The artwork of **Master Artist Charles Mills** is featured in a separately-bound edition of *AMAZING WOMEN JAZZ AND BLUES ARTISTS* in full-color by contacting Joan Cartwright by email: divajc47@yahoo.com or by phone at 404-768-5778. Many of the works displayed in this book and other of Mr. Mills' works are available for purchase through Ms.



Photographic portrait of the Artist by Ronald Warner

Charles Mills

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diva Joan Cartwright has toured five continents and 15 countries including the U.S.A., 8 European countries, Brazil, Mexico, Ghana, Gambia, South Africa, China and Japan, with her swinging brand of jazz and blues.



She is a composer and her book, **IN PURSUIT OF A MELODY** contains 40 original songs and lyrics to standard songs: *A Night in Tunisia* by Dizzy Gillespie, *Blue Bossa* by Kenny Dorham, *Tune Up* by Miles Davis and *Bessie's Blues* by John Coltrane. The companion CD contains 8 of Joan's original compositions.

Joan's book also contains two lectures that she's given to 7,000+ children and college students, in U.S., Switzerland, Sicily, China and Japan: *WOMEN IN JAZZ* and *SO, YOU WANT TO BE A SINGER?* Her workshops are dynamic and educational, highlighting the pitfalls and benefits of the music business. She contends that, Knowing music theory is a step in the right direction for any singer who truly wants to excel in the world of music!

Joan holds a B.A. in Music and Communication from LaSalle University, in Philadelphia, PA, and a M.A. in Communications from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. In the 2007-2008, Joan taught Music to 8th graders at Eagle Charter Academy, until budget cuts caused her to be laid off. She received her Teaching Certificate in Music, as a result of this position.

Diva JC names any ensemble of musicians she works with *Jazz Hotline*. Why? Because the music swings and it's always HOT! Her most famous Blues are *Nobody's Husband*, *Oh, Baby!* and *Treat Me Right*.

Known as the Hip Hop Mom of Atlanta, Joan performed Jazz Meets Hip Hop with her daughter's hip hop/soul group - Caustic Dames, in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Italy, France and England. Hear Joan on Atlanta Has Spoken, a compilation of spoken word.

Joan was certified as a Television Producer at People TV in Atlanta, GA. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Women in Jazz South Florida, Inc. She built the website for the organization - www.wijsf.org - and has a weekly online radio show highlighting women who compose and perform jazz at blogtalkradio.com/musicwoman.

During her 30-year career, Joan has performed with Lou Donaldson, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Freddie Hubbard, Dorothy Donegan, Philly Joe Jones, Shirley Scott and hundreds of musicians in the U.S., Europe and Asia. This talented lady is bound to bring a smile to your face with her swinging jazz and blues! Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy her performance when she comes to your side of town!

In March 2007, Joan founded Women in Jazz South Florida, Inc. and, in March 2009, Joan and her WOMEN IN JAZZ Ensemble presented a 90-minute performance at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Joan Cartwright is available for bookings around the world. Her knowledge of music and her professional attitude enables Joan to travel alone and work with professional jazz and blues musicians, wherever she is contracted to perform.

Joan Cartwright

Worldly, talented, and passionate, Joan Cartwright has toured five continents and fifteen countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Ghana, Gambia, South Africa, China and Japan, with her swinging brand of jazz and blues. Her book, *IN PURSUIT OF A MELODY* contains 40 songs and 35 poems, plus memoirs and 350 photographs with jazz greats. She's lectured to 6,000 students on *WOMEN IN JAZZ* and *SO, YOU WANT TO BE A SINGER?* Her dynamic workshops highlight the pitfalls and benefits of the music business. Her group "Jazz Hotline" swings! Her most famous Blues are "Nobody's Husband" and "Treat Me Right". Visit her online at www.fyicomminc.com



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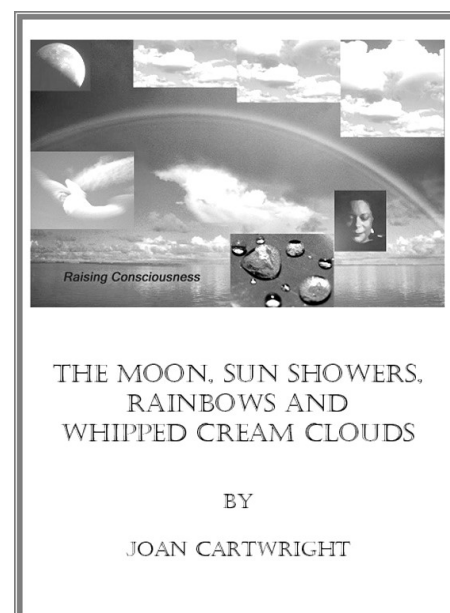
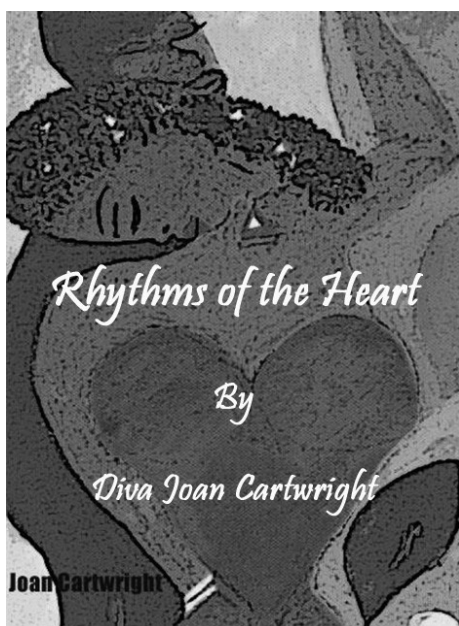
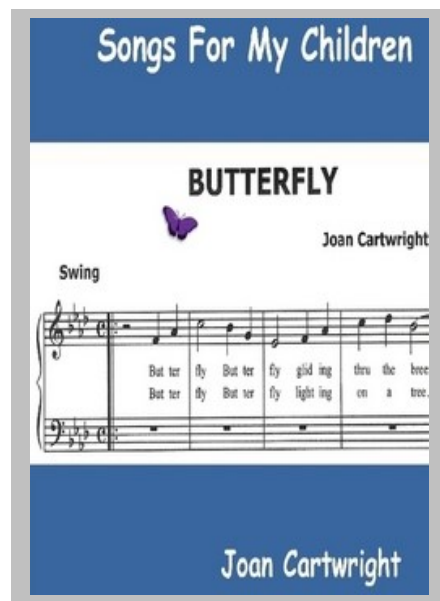
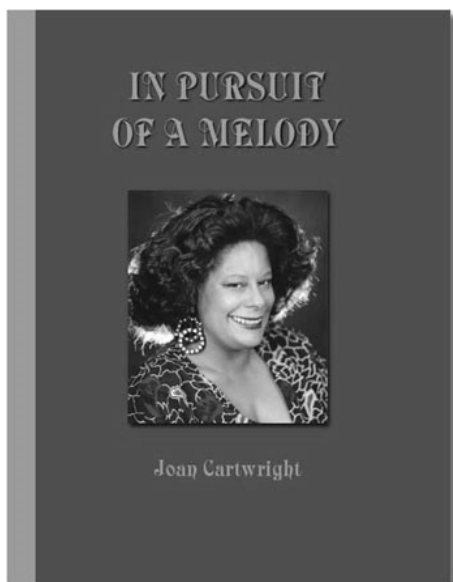
CDs:

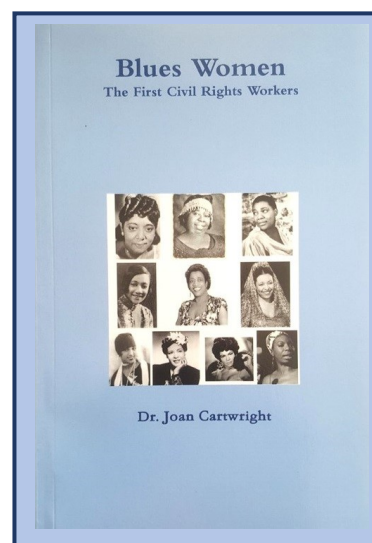
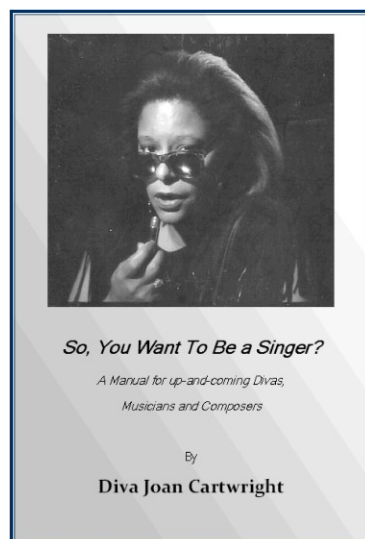
Love Translation CD (I AM Records: 2008)

In Pursuit of a Melody CD (I AM Records: 2005)

Feelin' Good: An Evening with Joan Cartwright and Jazz Hotline CD (I AM
Records: 1995)

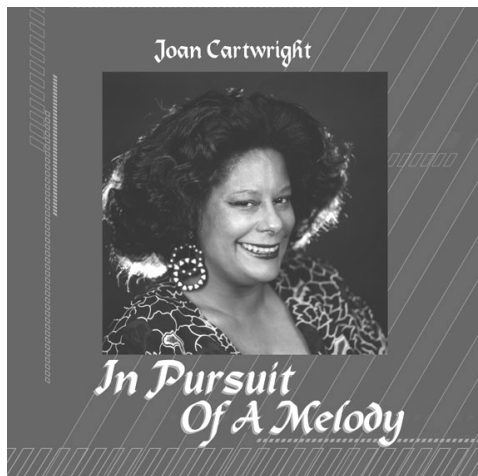
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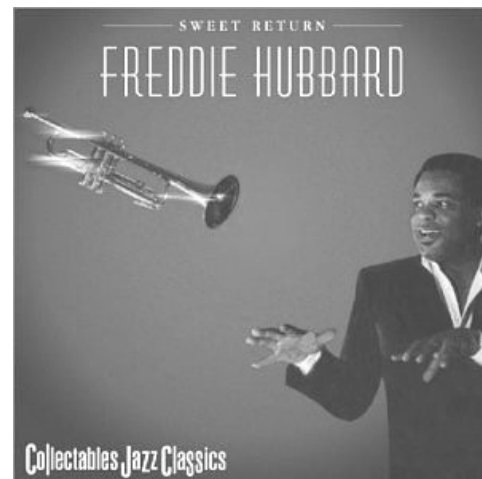
2006



1995



1996



1983



2007



2021

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